

Black History Calendar

Page 6

Talkin' black and spending white

Page 8



CITY NEWS

THE NEW JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION

The black press and the O.J. trial

Page 4

Lawrence's words a slap in the face

As Connie sees it...

Page 4

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National News

by Robert N. Taylor

NAACP leadership woes continue, Evers asked to head board

In a bid to find leadership to lead it out of its financial and organizational problems, several board members of the NAACP have reportedly asked the widow of the slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers to head the group's board of directors. Last week Myrlie Evers-Williams confirmed the request but indicated that she has not yet made a decision on accepting the offer. However, she expressed shock at the present state of the nation's leading and oldest civil rights organization. "The association is in a precarious condition and it has to be addressed soon," she said. The 64-member board holds its annual meeting in New York on Feb. 19 and it is expected to elect a new chairman. Current chairman Dr. William Gibson has been accused in a lawsuit filed by seven members of improperly sending \$1.4 million in pension and grant money. And the former executive director Benjamin Chavis was fired on Aug. 20 after he agreed to use \$322,000 of NAACP money to settle a sex discrimination suit filed against him. Meanwhile, the group has managed to rehire most of the staff which it was forced to layoff last November because of financial problems. —BEND, OREGON

Whitewater probe now targets black ministers

The Whitewater investigation into President Clinton's business dealings while he was Governor of Arkansas last week expanded its probe into monies given to black ministers by the Clinton campaign during the 1980s. Sources allege the payments may have violated state law. But the White House immediately denounced the probe as a "Republican inspired fishing expedition" which would lead nowhere. The payments in question were primarily used to get out the black vote for Clinton. And during his years as governor, Clinton usually won the black vote overwhelmingly. Arkansas law bars cash payments of more than \$50, but some of the "get out the vote" contributions to the black ministers are said to have totaled \$500 to \$1,000. Why Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr is investigating black ministers when he was supposed to be looking into Clinton business dealings is unclear. —LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

A Black History message from President Clinton

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating [Black] History Month, 1995.

Hillary and I join you in marking the brave efforts of the countless Americans throughout our nation's history who have demanded justice, declared an end to segregation, and fought to ensure that every individual has the opportunity to build a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Today, there is a renewed sense of hope in America—a hope based on the idea that our great diversity can unite rather than divide our society. It is the same hope that has inspired African Americans since our country's beginnings to dream of a nation in which all people enjoy the freedom to make their own lasting contributions to our world. If we are truly to build on history's rich lessons, we must always remember these pioneers' pivotal roles in American history.

Ours can be a land of unprecedented peace and prosperity in the twenty-first century if we have the faith that Martin Luther King described, the faith to "transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood." We must never cease striving to bring people together across racial and cultural barriers. This is our generation's most solemn calling and most important challenge.



I urge everyone, during [Black] History Month and throughout the year, to take up this challenge and to learn more about the black Americans who have made this country great.

Black Clergy: Give Lawrence a chance

by Reverend Reginald Jackson

A tempest has been brewing not only in New Jersey, but all across this nation, with the revelation that Rutgers University President, Dr. Francis Lawrence, stated in a November meeting that black students were unable to score higher on the SATs because of their genetic hereditary background.

Dr. Lawrence subsequently apologized and stated those comments were the opposite of what he really believes and doesn't know why he said it.

Many organizations and leaders across

the state have demanded his resignation. Among them were the NAACP, the Garden State Bar Association as well as the African-American student organizations and the National Rainbow Coalition.

Several members of the Clergy had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Lawrence last week in what was a very frank, candid and blunt encounter. Dr. Lawrence reiterated that his comment was wrong and painful even though he didn't mean to make them, or know why he said them. He further stated that his convictions are just the opposite of what he stated and explained that they were made while he was making a case against using SATs as the determining factor for college entrance.

Our response was that regardless of what he believed, his words were spoken and the damage was done. The question before him and the citizens of New Jersey, particularly the Rutgers students and faculty, is what do we do about it in order to heal and move forward?

We understand the anger and pain of students, faculty, blacks and other citizens. How could we not be angry? His statement informed that we were inferior and gave credence to all the stereotypes propagated about us not to mention increasing an already volatile atmosphere in the state. All of this notwithstanding, from the president of a state university.

Despite all of this, the Clergy do not join those who are calling for Dr. Lawrence's resignation. We believe it is important that we look at the entire four and a half year tenure of Dr. Lawrence rather than two sentences out of a speech. It is on the basis of his record that we give him the benefit of the doubt. Prior to his arrival there were no blacks in the administrative hierarchy. Currently, Rutgers ranks first among full-time African-American faculty members. In the American Association of Universities, Rutgers ranks first in African-American enrollment and fourth in total minority enrollment. Dr. Lawrence has also spoke out nationally against using the SATs as the barometer for student enrollment.

None of the above takes away the anger and pain over what was said. Dr. Lawrence must now prove that he didn't mean what he said. He deserves the right to do that. Those

by Sherry Burrus

NEWARK—Words are a powerful tool. Not long ago, the words of Khalid Muhammad, who gave an inflammatory speech attacking Jews and others not to his liking, rocked the campus of Kean College and the state of New Jersey. The outcry resulted in the subsequent removal of the college president. The words of Rutgers University President Francis Lawrence have once again, left African-American students and faculty to sift through the rubble while the smoke clears.

In a faculty meeting held last November, President Lawrence, who initially denied making the statement, was heard on tape discussing the issue of the complete enforcement of SAT scores.

"...Do we assess in the same way at Rutgers that we would in an open admissions county college?...Let's look at the SATs. The average SAT score for African Americans is 750. Do we set standards in the future so that we do not admit anybody with the national test? Or do we deal with a disadvantaged population that doesn't have the genetic hereditary background to have a higher average?"

The president's dreaded statement has triggered a chain reaction of events which have sparked mixed emotions between faculty and students. Within three days, students have marched and protested on the New Brunswick Campus and in front of his home and recently called for his resignation.

Lawrence, who is respected by many African-American faculty members on the Newark campus, says the remark was taken out of context and was never intended in a racial context. He then went on to explain that "anybody's heredity will have some influence on how he will perform."

Dr. Clement Price, a distinguished professor of Afro-American History and author of *Freedom Not Far Distant*, explained Lawrence's statement as a "mis-speak."

"I believe this is what we call a 'mis-speak.' That is to say that he did not mean



Dr. Francis Lawrence, president Rutgers University.

what he said. I've known President Lawrence for a long time. His remarks of two months ago make absolutely no sense given his public behavior as president of the university nor do they make any sense with the policies he has instituted as president."

"I think it fair to say that with respect to issues of great interest to black and minority students, faculty and administrators, he has been among Rutgers most distinguished presidents."

Dr. Price, who served on the search committee that recommended President Lawrence to the governor, agrees that the statement was taken out of context and says that the faculty and administration, including the university's vice-presidents, Christine Haska and Joseph Seneka, who were present at the November meeting, were aware of what Lawrence intended to say.

"In the sense that it [Pres. Lawrence's remark] was part of a much longer speech, I believe he was taken out of context. What I find most interesting about that remark is that he gave it to a group of faculty members and none of them at the time challenged his remarks. This leads me to suspect that in the

(Continued on page 10)

Rebuffed blacks meet with heads of black newspapers

by William Reed

Former Secretary of Agriculture Michael Espy, federally indicted boxing promoter Don King and Nigeria's ambassador to the United States Zubair M. Kazzura all recently spoke to a meeting of black newspaper publishers each claiming that the nation's white-owned media has treated them in an unfair manner.

Members of the Black Press itself also complained about "slighted" treatment from mainstream media in regards to its permanent seat at the O.J. Simpson trial.

The Black Press of America released its "Your True Voice Poll" at their Mid-Winter Conference in Tampa, which showed that a significant number of black readers rate it as being "the most credible source of information about black Americans."

Secretary Espy, told the African-American publishers that "it was not an issue of my accepting tickets to a football game. The real issue was forced out (of the job as Secretary of Agriculture) was because I was making structural changes in that agency and, for



Former Secretary of Agriculture Michael Espy.

is the first time, putting blacks in high-level and policy-making positions that will change Agriculture forever."

Espy told publishers that the majority media has not presented the public true facts about the budget reductions and efficiency he introduced at Agriculture, focusing only on

(Continued on page 3)

Students protest Lawrence's comments

by Jeremie Johnson

NEW BRUNSWICK—In protest to comments made by Rutgers University President Francis L. Lawrence, students staged a silent rally and continue to hold open forums at Rutgers University's New Brunswick and Piscataway Campuses.

While at a November 11, 1994 meeting of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Francis Lawrence met with about 30 Camden faculty members to discuss the issues of post-tenure review and accountability. Lawrence made comments relating to the "genetic hereditary background of African-Americans" in reasoning why African Americans as a whole had a low SAT score average. The use, from which the *Star Ledger* reported Lawrence's comments, was also distributed to 100 AAUP departmental representatives in late January.

The comments were made public in the January 31 edition of *The Star Ledger* in a front-page article by Robert Braun entitled "Rutgers chief cites genetics in test scores of minorities."

In the January 31 press conference Lawrence issued a "regret" for the comments.

"I intended to say that standardized tests

should not be used to exclude disadvantaged students on the trumped-up grounds that such test measure inherent ability, because I believe they do not.

"Artificial constructs such as test scores are often used as barriers to educational access. But I believe that all students have the abilities to overcome past economic and academic disadvantages. Access to quality education together with hard work and determination are the ingredients for a successful academic experience."

Student meetings and protests remained to be an outlet for disgruntled students. At 2:30 p.m. on February 1, students marched down College Avenue in New Brunswick chanting "hell no are genes aren't so...Fran has got to go." Students of all colors, ethnicities, and races marched to Old Queens, the original campus of Rutgers College and called for Lawrence's unconditional resignation. One Rutgers College senior symbolically ripped up a copy of the controversial book, *The Bell Curve*.

At 10:00 that evening an estimated 700 students packed the multi-purpose room of the Busch Student Center to voice their concern over Lawrence's comments.

Otis Rolley, a Rutgers junior, student activist and Jersey City resident talked of boycotting the classes of those professors

(Continued on page 10)

Community Calendar

TUESDAY THRU SUNDAYS

ROSELLE—Ice Skating in Wannanico Park. Family sessions are available. For more info call 908-296-7550.

EVERY MONDAY

NEWARK—Open auditions for singers, rappers, comedians etc. for Sykes's Talent Hunt at Boys' and Girls' Club of Newark at 5 p.m. For more info call 201-371-0594.

MONTH OF FEBRUARY

EDISON—Middlesex County College presents an exhibit of photographs entitled "Ethiopia: Motherland" at the College Gallery Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info call 908-906-2566.

MONTCLAIR—"Exploring Undefined Boundaries" exhibit at the Montclair State University Art Gallery. For gallery hrs. call 201-655-5113.

THRU MARCH 4

CRANFORD—Playwriting workshop will be offered Saturdays at Union County College from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more info call 908-708-7600.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

CRANFORD—Financial aid workshop at Union County College at 6 p.m. For more info call 908-708-7141.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

ELIZABETH—Financial aid workshop at Union County College at 6 p.m. For more info call 908-965-6061.

FEBRUARY 9 AND 10

NEWARK—Auditions being held for the Imitators '95 show, where you get to imitate your favorite stars, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Essex County College. For more info call 201-677-3206.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

PATERSON—The Passaic County Historical Society presents its Second Annual

Send Community Calendar events to City News, P.O. Box 1774 Plainfield, NJ 07061

Valentine's Day Ball at 7:30 p.m. at the Lambert Castle Museum. For more info call 201-861-2761.

MONTCLAIR—Carolina Santana Dance Company at Montclair State University at 8 p.m. For more info call 201-655-4333.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

WATCHUNG—Auditions will be held for the up-coming production of "The lives and letters of Dr. Suetes" at the Watchung Arts Center at 7 p.m. For more info call 908-753-0190.

JERSEY CITY—Town and Gown Reception at 34 p.m. at Jersey City State College in Ingalls Recital Hall in the Rosemary Building. For more info call 201-200-3151.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AND 25 JERSEY CITY—Certified Trauma Counselor courses. Saturday at Jersey City State College at 9 a.m. For more info call 201-200-3069.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AND 27

WESTFIELD—There will be a Nanny course for child-care providers at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more info call 908-654-9554.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

HACKENSACK—Bergen County Technical School is accepting registration for high tech training course scheduled to begin 2/14. For more info call 201-343-8000 ext. 2238, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Senior Citizens Service sponsors a two-day trip to Atlantic City. For more info call 908-753-3506.

WESTFIELD—Beginning Wallpaper Workshop at noon. For more info call 908-

An evening with Nor-je-men

TEANECK—The North Jersey Men's Club (Nor-je-men) recently held its annual formal dinner dance on Saturday, January 7.

Nor-je-men, was formed over forty years ago by internist Dr. Frederick Douglas of Montclair and consisted of various professional and businessmen of Northern Jersey suburban towns.

Its membership has expanded to include various entrepreneurs and professionals throughout the state over the years. Dr. Frank Lapeyrolerie, former Dean of New Jersey Dental School was a member up until his passing in August, 1993, and the Honorable James Coleman, newly appointed Supreme Court Justice is also an active member.

The club's philanthropic activities involve donating over \$250,000 to various local charities, including the Urban League of Essex County, The NAACP, and the Henry Street Settlement (home for teenage boys). Historically Black Colleges including The Meharry Medical School and Howard University, have also been recipients of donations.

This year's recipient was the Crossroads Theatre Company of New Brunswick, the leading African-American theatre company in the nation.

Nor-je-men's donation was matched by the Chrysler Corporation and the Ford Corporation for a total of \$50,000 for the theatre company.



(l-r) William Ewing Esq., Dr. Duncan Walton, Ricardo Khan, Penelope Lattimer, P.H.D., president of Crossroads, and Mrs. Joycelyn Walton

Nominate a volunteer

TRENTON—The Governor's Office of Volunteerism is currently accepting nominations for the 1995 Governor's Volunteer Awards, an annual

event hosted by Governor Whitman to recognize twelve groups and individuals for their superior commitment to volunteerism and community service. The awards will be given during a Spring 1995 reception at Drumthwaite.

Nominations are made in one of eleven categories: Arts and Humanities, Education, Environment, Health, Human Services, Jobs, and Material Resources, International Volunteerism, Long-term Service, Mobilization of Volunteers, Public Safety, Youth, and the Workplace.

An individual or group may submit separate nominations for as many different nominees as desired, but in only one category per nomination. All materials submitted on behalf of the nominee must be legible, and not more than ten pages of pertinent supplementary material may be submitted along with the nomination form. To receive a Nomination Form, call the Governor's Office of Volunteerism at 609-964-3470. Deadline for receipt of all nominations is February 15.



The Rev. Dr. Henry Lyons was recently inaugurated as president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. and awarded the Pinnacle Award from his alma mater Bethune Cookman College.



(l-r) Red Randolph, chairman of Nor-je-men, Lorraine Ewing, William Ewing Esq., and Dr. Duncan Walton president of Nor-je-men looks on as Ricardo Khan, director of Crossroads addresses the guests. Below Congressman Donald Payne (l) and Honorable James H. Coleman Jr., first African American Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court were among the many guests at the Nor-je-men dance.



(l-r) Donna Word, M.D.; Bette Douglass Mills, P.H.D.; Lois Ford, M.D.; Elaine Douglass, M.D. and June Eldridge, P.H.D. enjoy the evening at the dance.

Negotiations completed

NEWARK—Executive Superintendent of schools Eugene Campbell, has announced that an agreement has been reached in the contract negotiations for the school district's 5,654 employees, represented by the Newark Teacher's Union.

The three-year contract, subject Board and union approval, covers

the 1995-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 school years and includes salary increases comparable with the Essex County school averages.

A mediator from New Jersey Public Employee Relations Committee was instrumental in helping the parties to reach an agreement.

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National News

by Robert N. Taylor

(Continued from page 1)

Republicans intensify investigation of Ron Brown

The nation's first black Secretary of Commerce last week came under increased Congressional scrutiny because of his often complex business dealings. Republicans are pushing a probe into how Brown was able to earn more than \$400,000 from the sale of a company in which he says he invested no money. The investigators are now sifting through the financial records of Brown, Washington business executive Nolandia Hill and the First International Communications Corporation. Republicans are also suggesting that Brown led on several financial statements. Investigations into Brown's financial dealings are coming at a time when he is generally getting high marks for his leadership of the Commerce Department. So far, President Clinton is maintaining his support of Brown.

—WASHINGTON, DC

Progress reported in battle against Sickle Cell Anemia

Sickle Cell Anemia is an inherited blood disease affecting nearly 100,000 Americans—most of them African Americans. Private and government agencies have long been criticized for not doing more to cure or at least lessen the pain associated with the ailment. But last week researchers at the National Institutes of Health announced the first preventive drug treatment which promises to relieve the most painful symptoms of sickle cell anemia. Most victims suffer unpredictable attacks of pain in the abdomen, back and the joints. One in 12 black Americans carries the sickle cell gene. But far fewer actually have the disease.

—WASHINGTON, DC

Daughters of civil rights leaders support Shabazz

The daughters of some of the nation's most prominent civil rights leaders have announced a campaign to aid the legal defense of the daughter of assassinated black nationalist leader Malcolm X, Gubelin Shabazz, 34, was charged three weeks ago with plotting the Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. Those coming to her support last week included Rev. Bernice King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Rena Evers, daughter of slain NAACP leader Medgar Evers; Santa Jackson, daughter of national black political leader Jesse Jackson and Andrea Young, daughter of former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young.

—ATLANTA, GA

Clergy: give Lawrence a chance

(Continued from page 1)

who do a lot of public speaking that there are times when we say something we don't mean or didn't realize we said, but because the people know us and what we stand for, it doesn't become an issue. Could that be what happened at the November 11 faculty meeting in Camden?

I hope the students from that something positive from this unfortunate and painful experience. If Dr. Lawrence mispoke, then let us challenge him as chairman of the Council of Presidents of the Commission on Higher Education to lead the commission to create a formal policy governing all state colleges and universities, that repudiates, in any form or expression, the idea or teaching, that minorities, or anybody, are inferior on the basis of genetics and heredity.

In our meeting, Dr. Lawrence agreed to lead this effort. We should grant him the chance to prove himself by leading academic to take a position, this position. Besides, what good will having a new president take over with this theory still acceptable in this state. Who better to lead the effort than Dr. Francis Lawrence?

by Reverend Jesse Jackson

On January 30-31, several hundred leading clergy attended the first meeting of the Rainbow Coalition's Public Policy Institute.

The Republican "Contract with America" is really a contract on black America, workers, the poor, women

DiVincenzo schedules freeholder meetings in Essex towns

NEWARK—Keeping his promise to make county government more easily accessible to people throughout Essex County, Freeholder President Joseph DiVincenzo has announced a new meeting schedule for the Board of Freeholders.

The new schedule expands the number of meetings to be held outside the Hall of Records and changes the starting time so that all meetings will be held in the evening.

The board will have public board meetings in 17 of Essex County's 22 municipalities and will schedule budget hearings in the other five municipalities. The freeholders have changed their meeting time from 3 o'clock in the afternoon to 7:00 p.m.

and other minorities. In other words, the Rainbow constituency is under attack and we must train an army to fight back!

As in the past, I will be in the forefront of that struggle.

Unfunded Mandates, the Balanced Budget Amendment, the demands of the Hispanic and Congressional Black Caucuses, attempts to

"I said, when I was elected President of the board, that I would do everything possible to make county government easily accessible to the people of this county. This meeting schedule accomplishes that goal," said DiVincenzo.

In addition to the scheduling changes, DiVincenzo also is making plans to continue the practice of taping the freeholder meetings and making them available to local cable stations to be televised.

"It's important that the people of our county be informed about the steps we are taking to close the budget gap. The board will have to make decisions that will impact services, and I want the public to know what

away congressional seats, to attract minority scholarships, to make Affirmative Action illegal and more, are all serious challenges to the progressive movement.

We must study and analyze these policy and political attackers—but study and analysis are not enough. We must act, become co-opted through a paralysis of analysis. We

protections in services we are considering."

The freeholder again called on County Executive Treffinger to present his budget to the Board of Freeholders by February 15 so that the board can have enough time to review the document.

"I am calling on County Executive Treffinger to meet this deadline to prevent the problems we had last year when the budget was late. If there are problems, we should know about them early so that we can develop strategies to deal with them," he concluded.

The entire schedule can be obtained by calling the Clerk to the Board of Freeholders at 201-621-4443.

Training to act

need a movement. We must fight back!

We must be trained in the tried and true techniques of old, as well as in the newer modes of fighting in a modern technological age. The Rainbow Public Policy Institute will help with both.

The challenge is to go on the moral offensive. The most authentic independent voices, often clergy, must speak, educate and act to protect the interests of common people.

The real interest of real people are becoming marginalized as corporate interests dominate both parties and their leaders.

Clergy must be trained to penetrate to the moral center, not just go with the flow of the political center—or worse, to naively go along with the religious right or the extreme left, because in some instances, they use familiar sounding religious rhetoric. Clergy must learn to navigate toward justice along the thin line of the "oughtness" of religion and the "isness" of politics.

Some of the program objectives of the Rainbow Public Policy Institute are:

- 1) Reduce unnecessary jailing of our youth through Reclaim Our Youth (ROY) program—prevention not incarceration.
- 2) Leverage consumer power to create jobs and assure fairness—jobs not jails.
- 3) Register one million new voters—the ballot not the bullet.
- 4) Urban policy—economic and job development, and redlining and begin greenlining.
- 5) Fight homelessness—particularly among children and families.
- 6) Affirmative action—threatened by Republican actions in California (ROY) and defense in the White House.
- 7) College athletics—fairness for coaches and sports administrators.
- 8) Media fairness—jobs and portrayals.

Budget Panel OKs Rice building-demolition act

TRENTON—The Senate Budget Committee has approved Senator Ronald L. Rice's request seeking a \$50 million bond act to fund the demolition of unsafe buildings to revitalize urban and rural areas.

The bill, S-251, now goes to the full Senate.

"Newark alone has more than 2,000 abandoned residential buildings that need to come down," said Senator Rice, (D-Essex), a Newark City Councilman. "Many other cities such as Camden, Elizabeth, Irvington and Paterson have structures that need removing, as do towns in Northwest Jersey and other rural areas."

"These buildings drain the municipal economy and serve as havens for illegal drugs, prostitution and other crimes. They reduce municipal tax bases and discourage redevelopment. Rural areas around the state and cities can also benefit from tearing

down abandoned buildings and replacing the property with new housing or simply leaving it as open space."

The bill would seek voter approval for the \$50 million "Urban and Rural Centers Unsafe Buildings Demolition Bond Act," which Rice hopes to put on this November's ballot.

The Department of Community Affairs would oversee the bond program, establishing eligibility criteria for which buildings to demolish and ranking buildings based on these criteria.

"We recently heard Governor Whitman's pledge to help our cities. This program fulfills her goal and will help rural areas increase their tax bases and rebuild their communities. We look forward to becoming a major part of the governor's economic strategies," Senator Rice concluded.

National poll: eight in ten Americans support federal funding for public TV

Public cites PBS as essential leader in quality, educational programming

WASHINGTON, DC—Americans see public television as a champion of quality television, and advocate continued, or even increased—federal support, according to a nationwide opinion poll released recently.

The survey of more than 1,000 adults was conducted by Opinion Research Corporation (ORC) of Princeton, New Jersey, during the first week of January.

Among its findings were:

- Most Americans (84 percent) would like to see Congress either maintain public television's funding at current levels or increase it, with nearly half advocating an increase. Support for federal funding was strongly nonpartisan, totaling 80 percent or more among voters who identified themselves as Republicans, Democrats, and independents.
- More than eight in ten people say PBS is as important, or more so,

than it has been in the past, with 45 percent saying it is more important than ever.

The poll sheds light on why the public so strongly believes in the importance of non-commercial public television:

- More than half (55 percent) feel the quality of television overall is deteriorating, including an increasing amount of violence and a shortage of family programming and the vast majority (82 percent) believe television "violence has a negative impact on children."
- Eight in ten (82 percent) say PBS has a higher standard of quality than commercial television or cable, and more than three out of four (76 percent) believe that without it, they would be very difficult to maintain and improve the quality of TV programming.
- Nearly all said PBS is more educational and informative than most other television (92 percent), is more suitable for the whole family (91 percent) and offers something to all walks of life (90 percent).

The telephone survey of 1,005 adults 18 years or older was conducted during the period January 5-8/95. PBS is a private, non-profit corporation owned and operated by the nation's public television stations.

Rebuffed blacks

(Continued from page 1)

his acceptance of tickets and a plane ride from Tyson's Foods to attend a football game. He asked that black newspaper owners use their medium to get the truth of his tenure as Secretary of Agriculture out to America's citizens.

Flamboyant boxing promoter Don King is currently under indictment for fraud by federal authorities. He told the publishers' group that he still believes in capitalism and "The American dream." King also alleged that former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson is being jailed unfairly and that black publishers, and their readers, should petition government authorities for his immediate release.

Nigeria's ambassador to the U.S., Zubair M. Kazzure, claimed that American media, particularly a story on CBS's 60 Minutes program, was "biased and unfair" to Nigeria but to the Continent of Africa."

He said that the program on 419 scams (named after a section of the Nigerian Criminal Code) made the whole of the Nigerian government seem fraudulent, but the truth of the matter is that "Nigeria has never condoned the activities of these swindlers."

He continued that most people who respond to the type of scams and swindles illustrated on the CBS program were also fraudulent, attracted by the prospects of receiving millions of dollars for nothing. For example, the Reverend who appeared on the program could not resist the temptation of obtaining \$16 million for a contract which was never awarded to his mission.

Ambassador Kazzure also told the heads of the Black Press that he wanted to use their newspapers to get his government's message out in an "unbiased" way.

nel, the newspaper appointed to cover the trial for the Black Press of America, has been denied its exclusive seat in that courtroom, now having to share with the Scripps-Howard News Service and Pasadena Star News.

In the early part of the Simpson case, the trial for the Black Press of America, has been denied its exclusive seat in that courtroom, now having to share with the Scripps-Howard News Service and Pasadena Star News.

Ken Thomas, publisher of the Los Angeles Sentinel, told publishers at the Conference that Simpson trial Judge Lance Ito had "been cheating hell from non-black news organizations," who demanded access to more of the limited seats in the courtroom, citing that they better covered the audiences that the Black Press claims as their readers.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association's Department of Communications released the results of a national "Your True Voice Poll" which showed that its newspapers are a principal source of information to blacks and that mainstream media is grossly out of touch with the attitudes and opinions of black Americans.

Contrary to the general media's depiction of him, Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan topped the poll with people who responded to the question of who they considered "Most effective African American leader."

Another former black Muslim, Yahweh Ben Yahweh, who now heads the Nation of Yahweh Black Hebrews, gained more votes in the poll than Jesse Jackson, Andrew Young, Kweisi Mfume, and others often cited by the mainstream media as "black leaders."

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Gloucester	33,120	Passaic	42,160
Hudson	28,240	Union	39,520
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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Rutgers' President Should Not Resign We're big enough to accept a mistake... As A Mistake

More than two months ago during a question and answer situation, Dr. Francis Lawrence, president of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, misspoke saying that black students should not be penalized for scoring low on standardized tests, because blacks do not have the "genetic hereditary background" to score higher on standardized tests. He admitted he misspoke and has apologized to the students, faculty and the community. However, cries of justice ring out for his resignation. Student groups across the state and a major black clergy group have called on him to step down. On the other hand, black faculty who know Lawrence and heard his statement in context did not get upset. Others who know the president agree that his misstatement is not consistent with the direction he has taken to increase minority participation at Rutgers.

Given the feeding frenzy on Lawrence, it would be easy to join the bandwagon. Some of our brothers and sisters are blindly calling for this man to resign because of his mistake. But we will not. After viewing the tape, talking with students, faculty, and Lawrence himself, we believe his misstatement is not indicative of his position as an educator and leader of the university. Furthermore, we believe that the total context of his speech and his actions as president should be what we consider most. Honest mistakes can be made. We have to be big enough to recognize the mistake for what it is and look at the big picture of Dr. Lawrence's leadership.



Letter to the editor

NJ Transit should clean house

Dear editor,

I have just about had it with NJ Transit workers. Especially those ticket agents at Penn Station, and the bus drivers who are constantly late a grumpy in the mornings.

Is there some kind of written law that states that if you are black and work for the transit company you can be rude and obnoxious to customers? If there is it needs to be revised.

I have been taking the NJ Transit to and from work for the past five months and the service has been deplorable. Maybe no one complains, and I can see that, because when you do make a complaint, about the buses constantly being late you are rewarded with a response such as "well, if the driver is only ten minutes late, he/she will not be reprimanded for that, there is nothing we can do."

Well something should definitely be done, because if the buses are late and the driver drives as if he is in a funeral procession, and passengers miss connecting transportation, are late for work and appointments, something is very much wrong.

The straw that broke the camel's back in this situation is the very disgraceful behavior of one such ticket agent on the morning of Monday, February 6 at Penn Station. This publisher reserves the right to delete objectionable words or phrases and to reject any advertising. This publication, in whole or parts thereof, may not be reproduced in any form whatsoever without the expressed written permission of the Publisher. City News assumes no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, art or photographs. No material submitted can be returned without a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Copyright 1994 City News Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

The kids stood there in a state of confusion for approximately three minutes while other people who were in the line just passed and brushed them out of the way to get their tickets.

I was watching the whole incident while waiting for my train. When I realized that unless someone did something these kids probably would be standing there all day. I approached a young lady in the group and wrote, where are you going? She in return wrote that they were on their way to Trenton. I relayed this information to the agent who nastily stated, "well I

(Continued on page 10)

by Connie Woodruff

Last November Dr. Francis Lawrence, the esteemed president of Rutgers University, said the test scores of the black students at Rutgers are their "genetic hereditary background."

Those hateful words have come back to haunt him, infuriated the African-American student body, brought a crisis to campuses in Newark, New Brunswick and Camden and "troubled" Governor Whitman who likes to think the people of New Jersey are many faces—one family.

President Lawrence is busily apologizing for his "slip of the lip," insisting his remarks have been taken out of context.

More important is why no member of the faculty he was addressing at the time challenged him on the spot? Were they so mesmerized by his rhetoric they couldn't think? Or were too many of them, including the administrators in attendance, in agreement?

It took three long months for Dr. Lawrence's remarks to come to light and when they did, African-American students on all campuses went ballistic as did a few—very few—courageous black administrators and

by Rev. Reginald Jackson

There are contrary and ill winds blowing across this land. Winds that threaten to set back the gains made by African Americans and women in this country over the last twenty five years. With this "new" majority in Congress and this "old," yet now powerful, mind set at work there is an unholy effort being launched to return to what some call "the good old days."

At the forefront of this dubious assault is an effort to do away with Affirmative Action. Some years ago this plan called Affirmative Action was put into place to assure that minorities who had been intentionally and systematically denied jobs, contracts and other opportunities would have a chance to get them.

Even with Affirmative Action progress has been minimal. Yet today there is a renewed witch hunt to have Affirmative Action ended either by law or judicial decree.

JUST THINKING

The Black Press and the O. J. Simpson trial

by Maurice A. Dawkins

The first 100 days of the Congress and the State of the Union address of President Clinton notwithstanding, the eyes of the world focused on the O.J. Simpson trial the fourth week in January 1995.

I learned at the National Newspaper Publisher's Midwest Workshop in Tampa, Florida that the Black Press had been granted a separate section in the trial in California by Judge Lance Ito.

It seems that he was catching hell from the non-black news organizations and publications who were all grouped together with two seats where they had to rotate and take turns using the seat.

The publisher of the black Los Angeles Sentinel Newspaper had initiated the plan and won approval of the judge and was arranging to have articles by his reporter sent to the National Newspaper Publishers' member papers each week. The judge wanted the news clippings from the black papers' stories nationwide sent to him directly during the trial. He wanted to be able to document the fact that his decision to grant a special arrangement for the Black Press was justified.

I was just thinking how great it is to have one third of the press present when we represent one twelfth of the population. How important it is to have accurate and timely reports to the black community from black reporters through black newspapers. How sensitive Judge Ito was to recognize the need to get feedback from the black communities on this historic case.

faculty.

A majority of African-American students are admitted to Rutgers and other state universities and schools all over the country through the EOF program. It's no secret the cost of higher education is escalating and EOF does not mean one is stupid. Rather, the program supports thousands of students, black, white and in between, because they cannot afford the tuition. To suggest such students are genetically inferior is as one student said, "a slap in the face."

A majority of Rutgers students come from local school districts presently under scrutiny for mis-educating black children. Those who have a chance of survival in academe are often the students who transfer from a community college and arrive at Rutgers fully prepared to tackle higher education mentally, physically, psychologically and socially.

To even imply, by accident, that African Americans are genetically inferior is to admit such students to a hostile atmosphere. If the president of the university shares these views with those entrusted to educate such students, what does it say to the racist and bigot in the classroom whether he is teacher or student?

There are not enough black role

models in positions of importance at Rutgers. There never have been. And too many of those who are professors and administrators seem to be in agreement that African Americans simply don't have the brain power required to make it to graduation.

I am upset about Dr. Lawrence's little slip. I think it's a big thing. I know it is a big thing and as a former student and Masters graduate from Rutgers, I know a little something about attitudes that exist on the campus among professors and students.

I also know that coming from Tulane University in New Orleans does not guarantee Dr. Lawrence urban credentials. Most of black New Orleans are graduates of Xavier—a black university.

The fact that I know at least one black Rutgers professor who is on the search committee that recommended Lawrence, makes me wonder why that brother or vice president of Student Affairs has not been more visible during this controversy.

There is no African-American committee to take up the cause for the upset student body. Despite Dr. Lawrence's claim of inclusion, looking for African American adjuncts is like looking for the proverbial needle and black faculty and administrators

are as minuscule as a hen's teeth.

Even more disturbing is the report that while fraternity members are openly making comments towards African-American students as "there goes the dumb niggers." It doesn't take much to stir the racism in all of us if the climate is right and if we think we're in the majority.

President Lawrence has wasted no time in apologizing for his remarks but the damage has been done. Certainly, he will try to make amends but as one faculty member said to me privately, "If nothing happens, in three months he will have forgotten the incident and his promises and it will be back to business as usual."

After a decade of state monitoring, the Orange school district has won full certification as a Level I district, the state's highest accreditation.

Superintendent of the district, Bernice Davis is credited with bringing the school district out of the pits to respectability. Ms. Davis is a non-nonsense teacher/administrator who, given the history of schools in Orange, was not expected to turn the district around so rapidly. Many of us knew she could and would. Hey Newark, are you listening?

The fight to preserve Affirmative Action

in fact the argument made today is that there is reverse discrimination because of Affirmative Action. In particular, that white males cannot get jobs because of racial preferences.

Doesn't that explain a large measure why a majority of white men, especially in the south voted Republican?

Who can forget the ad run by Senator Jesse Helms in his last campaign against Harey Gant, the Democratic candidate and an African American.

It showed a white hand reaching out for a job only to have a black hand pulling it back with one hand and getting the job with the other. Sen. Helms trailed by a large margin in all the polls until this ad ran. He was eventually re-elected in a very close election.

This attempt to do away with Affirmative Action would have us think that pervasive racism is a thing of the past. That doors of opportunity now swing wide open to African

Americans. That all Americans now compete on a level playing field. This is a deliberate distortion. No one can objectively look at corporate, academic or government figures for employment entrance or promotion and argue that minorities have the same opportunities as all other Americans. Racism and denial of opportunity are obvious all over America and in fact is increasing.

The fight to preserve Affirmative Action will be a difficult and bitter fight. It will be exploited for political reasons as the 1996 presidential election gets closer. The state of California even has a referendum to be put on the ballot to do away with Affirmative Action.

Affirmative Action was not intended nor has it been a handout. What it has been is a door of opportunity to minorities to participate and share fully in this nation. That opportunity, for individuals, businesses and professionals who are qualified and meet all other criteria should be and must be continued.

scripative analysis.

Yesterday's UCLA football hero, Hertz Advertiser, Hollywood movie actor, successful entrepreneur, O.J. Simpson is now being portrayed as a wife abuser, stalker and murderer. Disbelievers adopt a "he was framed" theory and point to drug-related crime as an option and possible Mafia connections. Arguments on the street run from he's gonna walk to he's gonna spend the rest of his life behind bars.

But through all America's Black Press has a special role. Black papers can objectively report and editorialize with one eye on the impact that

this case will have on a future generation's value system. Faith in black family values and acceptable standards of behavior can be strengthened if black public opinion is nurtured by a morally responsible Black Press covering the complex, somewhat hazy case of the State of California vs. O.J. Simpson.

Rev. Maurice Dawkins was a columnist for a Los Angeles newspaper and broadcast weekly on a Los Angeles radio station. He is currently in on special research in alternative plans to reform the criminal justice system.

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NEWARK—Open auditions for singers, rappers, comedians etc. for *Boyz n the Hood* at 5 p.m. For more info call 201-371-0594.

MONTH OF FEBRUARY
CRANFORD—Young people ages 7-15 will be able to enjoy intensive training in basketball and tennis through "Saturday Sports Spectacular" at Union County College from 9 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. for basketball and 10:15 to 11:15 for tennis. For more info, call 908-709-7600.

FEBRUARY 11
MOUNTAIN SIDE—Registration for Spring troop at the Watchung Stables will begin on the 4th for those troopers who rode during the spring and fall of 1994 from 8 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. New members can register on the 11th from 9 a.m. to noon. For more info call 908-789-3665.

TRENTON—Learn the significance of the African-American map and create your own at the New Jersey State Museum at 10 and 11:30 a.m. For more info call 609-292-7660.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14
SUMMIT—Beginning Painting class, children 8 to 10 learn to paint flowers using acrylics on paper and to mix basic colors to paint a floral masterpiece at the NJ Center for Visual Arts from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m. For more info call 908-275-9121.

Send Kids Kalendar events to P.O. Box 1774 Plainfield, NJ 07061

High school dropouts urged to take the challenge

NEWARK—Referring to the program as a means of rebuilding skills, reinforcing education and helping keep high school drop-outs out of drug and crime free, Newark (West Ward) Countyman and New Jersey State Senator Ronald L. Rice, is calling for local youth to apply for the New Jersey National Guard's 1995 "Challenge" class.

"The 'Challenge' program is a two-phased program designed to take high school drop-outs and give them a chance to work for their diploma, as well as the tools with which to become a productive, successful contributor to society and to their community," states the senator.

Rice, who has actively promoted and supported youth alternative programs, including boot camps, emphasized that this program is of a slightly different nature. "This is to

Shedding light on the black college graduate myth

by Laddie Howard

What does it mean to be young, gifted and to have been educated at a predominantly black college or university?

In order to posit an accurate response, we must briefly deal with the problem of perception versus reality. We all deal with misconceptions as there are not many young, positive and ambitious black youth. Some believe that if a person is smart, ambitious and just happens to be black, then he should attend a large white university. Others assume black colleges and universities offer only mediocre programs that do not prepare their students for a multicultural society.

These, of course, create the perception that graduates of black institutions are less qualified than other graduates. The reality, however, is that in addition to building exceptional critical thinking, technical and tactical proficiencies, and excellent written and verbal communication skills, the undeniable gifts a black college offers strengthen one's self-confidence and instill a belief in one's ability to succeed despite the odds. These are undeniable qualities that will determine who will lead and who will follow. Predominantly black colleges and universities build leaders.

My black college experience was indispensable. Never during my high school years had I considered attending a predominantly white university. Now I realize that to have done so would have been to deprive myself of the invaluable grooming and support that will carry me through a lifetime of achievement. In addition to preparing me for the theoretical and pragmatic challenges of life, my confidence was strength-

Kentopp's school government concept exposes students to real world

EAST ORANGE—Mayor Cardell Cooper recently swore in Mayor Kaiyiah Dunning, his elementary school counterpart, during the first inauguration of the Kentopp School Micro-Society. Mayor Cooper, School Superintendent Dr. John Howard, Jr., East Orange Council Chair Mark L. Scotland, other elected officials and dignitaries were on hand at this unique school's "mock" swearing in of the

Micro Society's executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. Also participating in the program were "Deputy Mayor" Lamont Dunning, "Assistant to the Mayor" Maurice Luciano, "City Clerk" Eddie Palmer, "City Council President" Alana Swenson and the "Micro Chorus." The ceremony included an inaugural address by Mayor Dunning.

"I am very proud to participate in

today's program," said Mayor Cooper. "Kentopp is a shining example of how we can equip our young people with the tools needed to succeed in our society. Through this unique experience, our future leaders learn by doing, combining academic science with common sense in real life situations."

Council Chairman Scotland said, "What the students are learning at Kentopp today will prove invaluable to them tomorrow. Being able to associate school experience with future success in your careers and other endeavors will enable you all to soar to new heights."

During the 1994-1995 academic school year, the East Orange School District implemented its unique school concept. Students throughout the district are able to choose their schools based on their specific interest. According to Kentopp School principal Ruth Cahoon, "The Micro-Society is an approach to education that gives students an understanding of real world institutions, markets and jobs. We abandon the notion of building the in-school experience around the conventional subject compartments, like reading, writing and arithmetic in isolation. Instead we place them within the context of a simulation of the 'real' or non-school society." Ms. Cahoon's simulated environments are created throughout the school year and include a micro-mall, small businesses, banks, post offices, school boards, police and fire departments, council meetings and a chamber of commerce.



At the Kentopp school Micro-Society Kickoff is president of the East Orange Board of Education, Ernestine Harris with Kaiyiah Dunning, mayor, East Orange Micro-Society, East Orange Mayor Cardell Cooper, Dr. Robert Penna, director of Secondary Education, Ruth Cahoon, principal of Kentopp School

give young people a second chance at getting their high school diploma (G.E.D.), while at the same time building character and positive values and providing jobs training."

The first "Challenge" class will graduate on February 25, 1995, with the second class scheduled to begin on March 27. Applications for the second class are currently being accepted, and Councilman/Senator Rice is recommending that interested youth who meet the requirements apply immediately.

The program requires that applicants be a resident of the state of New Jersey, between the ages of 16 and 18, a high school dropout, and not currently involved with the criminal justice system in either a parole or probation citation.

The program, which is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Guard

Bureau, is one of only 13 funded in the country. There is no cost to the cadets for participation in "Challenge," and upon successfully completing phase one, cadets receive a \$2,200 stipend to be used to continue their education or assist in further job training.

Phase 2 of the program is a 12-month non-residential program in-

volving mentors from within the communities from which the cadets come. Phase 2 reinforces the progress made during Phase 1, and also provides a reliable support structure to help cadets continue the drug-free and crime-free lifestyle established in Phase 1.

For additional information interested parties should call 1-800-997-5587 or any National Guard Army,

Irvington Senior receives top honors



IRVINGTON—Sahara S. Paden, a senior at Irvington High School will be featured in the 28th Annual Edition of *Who's Who Among American High School Students, 1993-94*. Only 5% of our nation's high school students are honored each year, and 97% of *Who's Who* students ultimately attend college. Sahara is on the softball team, a member of Students Against Crack (SAC), an honor roll student, and a member of the Student Council.

Project Open Book serves children at the Interfaith Council

PLAINFIELD—Children at the Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County, in Plainfield, NJ now have a special corner where they can share with their families thanks to Project Open Book, a special initiative by Reading Is Fundamental (RI 9), a nonprofit, nationwide organization. RI launched Project Open Book in 1990 to augment the services that many community groups provide to their homeless population by establishing reading centers in shelters and crisis facilities.

The employees of the Milltown Home Depot generously provided their services to the project by building reading centers to be used at the Interfaith site. Additionally, employ-

ees of the South Plainfield Home Depot are volunteering time to read to children during a regularly scheduled reading hour.

Children represent 50% of the Interfaith Council's clients which number 300 per year. Books provided through Project Open Book will keep children reading at a time when learning may have been interrupted. Under the auspices of Project Open Book, publishers and distributors, like the Trumpet Club, donate children's books, magazines, and reference materials. These gifts are distributed by Reading Is Fundamental throughout the country.

For further information on Project Open Book or the Interfaith Council call 908-769-6550.

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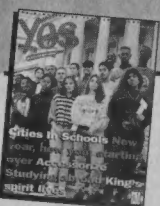
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BLACK HISTORY: A HANDBOOK OF EVENTS & BIRTHDAYS

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6
UNION COUNTY—Libraries across the county will distribute booklets featuring African-American leaders. The booklets are sponsored by United Way of Union County. For more info contact your local library.

MONTH OF FEBRUARY
NEWARK—A special display of books by African and about African in the Diaspora will be on display in NJ's Van Houten Library and book store. For more info call 201-596-3434.

NEWARK—Exhibit featuring the original works of James Ransome, award winning illustrator of children's books, will be at the Gallery at Essex County College. For gallery info call 201-877-3053.

NEWARK—Exhibit of original art work by African American artist will be on display in NJ's Hazelton Center Gallery. For gallery hours call 201-696-3434.

BLACK HISTORY MINUTES—Three times a day for a minute, TBS will air segments recognizing the contributions African-Americans have made to the country and to the world. Check your local listings for channels.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8
JERSEY CITY—The Art and Politics of Paul Robeson, lecture at JSC's Student Union building, room 311 at 1 p.m. For more info call 201-200-3428.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9
EDISON—George Subra, author of Black Exodus to Making Big Money in America, will speak about "Black Economics for Black Liberation" at noon at Middlesex Community College. For more info call 908-965-2556.

SET YOUR RECORDERS—A Place For Us: The Story of Shady Rest and America's First Ghetto Professional will air on Channel 13 at 12:30 a.m.

NEWARK—Challenges to African-American Youth, a panel discussion at 2:30 p.m. at Essex County College's Burch Theater. For more info call 201-201-8777.

OCEAN COUNTY—A tribute to Martin Luther King will take place at Ocean County College at 2 p.m. in Ocean County College. For more info call 908-255-0493.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10
WAYNE—Dr. Maulana Karenga, the founder of Kwanzaa, will lecture in William Paterson College, Science Hall, room 200A at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 205-2971.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11
NEWARK—The East-Lynne Company will present a performance of ten black musicals. The musicals will be performed at the Newark Public Library at 2 p.m. For more info call 201-733-5643.

OCEAN COUNTY—Legends of the Apollo, singing and tap dance review, will be on display at Ocean County College at 8 p.m. For more info call 908-255-0493.

SET YOUR RECORDERS—The Art of

Horse Pippin, a profile on a self-staught artist, will air on channel 13 at 3:15 a.m.

SET YOUR RECORDERS—Ernest J. Gaines' Louisiana Stories, The Autobiography of Phillis Wheatley, will be on channel 12 at 4 p.m.

SET YOUR RECORDERS—Alive TV: Looking for Langston, a tribute to Langston Hughes will air on channel 13 at 3:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12
NEWARK—NJIT is sponsoring a trip to the Broadway show "Show Boat." Bus departs from NJIT Parking Lot #7 on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. For ticket info call 201-596-3477.

OCEAN COUNTY—Don Messia Jazz Trio at Ocean County College at 2 p.m. For more info call 908-255-0493.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13
NEW YORK—Dr. Henry Louis Gates, chairman of the Dept. of Afro-American Studies at Harvard and Dr. Cornel West, professor of religion and African American studies at Harvard University, will appear at the White House Museum of American Art at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 212-570-3652.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14
NEWARK—Mae Fatale, a female rapper, will speak in the Student Lounge at 11:30 a.m. For more info call 201-877-3053.

OCEAN COUNTY—Strategies for the African Survival & Progress of African Americans, video lecture, will be on display at Ocean County College at 2 p.m. For more info call 908-255-0493.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
NEWARK—Drama presentation "1001 American African Americans" from NJIT's University Hall Theater, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more info call 201-596-3434.

NEWARK—Reception and roundtable discussion: Photographing Africa: Plagues of Fear at 5 p.m. at the Newark Museum. For more info call

NEWARK—NJIT sponsors trip to Broadway to see "Jelly Roll" at 6 p.m. Bus departs from NJIT Parking Lot #7 at 5 p.m. For ticket info call 201-596-3608.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16
JERSEY CITY—Radio talk show host, Bob Law, will speak on "Documenting African American History Through Media" at JSC's Student Union Building at 12 p.m. For more info call 201-200-3428.

OCEAN COUNTY—Ocean County College Black Unity Organization is sponsoring a dinner theater trip, Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and showtime is 8 p.m. For more info call 908-255-0493 or Philomena Jones at 908-255-0358.

NEWARK—An educational and cultural discussion, "African-American Inventors and Their Inventions" will be held in the Newark Public Library's fourth floor auditorium at 11 a.m. For more info

call 201-733-5643.

WEST LONGBRANCH—Junius Williams of "Roots" to the Sound will discuss music from the civil rights movement in the H. R. Young Auditorium at Monmouth College. For more info call 908-571-3586.

WAYNE—"A Letter From Booker T," a video and lecture at William Paterson College. For more info call 201-733-5643.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17
NEWARK—Reception for NJIT Art Exhibit, "The Legacy of William Paterson College," at 5 p.m. For more info call 201-596-3434.

EDISON—Rev. Calvin O. Butts III, pastor of Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church, will lecture about "The Legacy of Martin Luther King" at 7 p.m. in the Wilkes Theatre at Kean College. For more info call 908-255-0569.

OCEAN COUNTY—The Organization of Black Unity is sponsoring a Gospel Extravaganza at Ocean County College at 7 p.m. For more info call Philomena Jones at 908-255-0493 or Lily Woodard at 908-255-0493.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18
UNION—New Jersey Ballet will be in concert at 8 p.m. in the Wilkes Theatre at Kean College. For more info call 908-257-2337.

NEWARK—Marion Thompson-Wright Lecture at Rutgers in the Paul Robeson Center at 7 p.m. For more info call 201-664-5410.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20
WEST LONGBRANCH—"A Celebration of Our Heritage" a drama piece will be presented at 7 p.m. in the Wilson Auditorium at Monmouth College. For more info call 908-571-3586.

CAMDEN—Dr. Benjamin Chavis, former national executive to the NAACP, will speak at Rutgers University's Camden Center at 12:15 p.m. For more info call 609-252-6116.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21
NEWARK—Dad Eysa, a theatrical presentation examining various topics, youth gangs, institutional violence, media abuse, sex, poverty, Corbin Cornett at 7 p.m. For more info call 201-596-3434.

OCEAN COUNTY—Did You Know, a tribute to African-American scientists and inventors, will be at Ocean County College at 2 p.m. For more info call 908-255-0493.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
NEWARK—Bob Marley Week celebration begins at NJIT with a lecture by Dr. Pamela McCueley Bell, assistant professor at the University of Central Florida, in Culbreth Hall at 2:30 p.m. For more info call 201-596-3434.

WEST LONGBRANCH—Professor Jean Under of William Paterson College will lecture on African Americans and the media in the College Center at Monmouth

College at 2:30 p.m. For more info call 908-671-3586.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23
NEWARK—A discussion "Kente: Cloth of the Ancestral Kings. An important link between African and American cultures" will be presented in the Newark Public Library's fourth floor auditorium at 11 a.m. For more info call 201-733-5643.

SCOTCH PLAINS—A Place For Us: The Story of Shady Rest and America's First Ghetto Professional will be on display in the Jerseyland Park Community Center at 7 p.m. For more info call 908-561-2666.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24
NEWARK—NJIT will present a Bob Marley Finale at the Hazelton Center Gallery including food, music, video and a guest speaker from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more info call 201-596-3434.

MONTECLAIR—"Collecting African-American Art" panel discussion at the Montclair Art Museum at 3:30 p.m. For more info call 908-255-0493.

OCEAN COUNTY—Dance Mo'ose! program featuring Return To The Source will be at Ocean County College at 7 p.m. For more info call Philomena Jones at 908-255-0493 or Lily Woodard at 908-255-0493.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25
NEWARK—Bruce Cannon of the Hoosier Children program will host a musical "A Celebration of Our Heritage" at 7 p.m. in the Newark Public Library's centennial room.

NEWARK—Discussion about the UNIA on traditional African healing herbs and traditional medicine with Dr. Thurman Hunt, a pain specialist at the PCO Pan Management Center. To register call 201-662-2000.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26
National Geographic Explorer, "Lost World" episode, will be on the time to tell the story of the evolution of the blues will air on PBS at 9:25 p.m. Check your local listings for channel.

MONTECLAIR—"A Little Love, A Little Hate" a story of a Tennessee slave who won the Nobel Peace Prize at 1:30 p.m. at the Montclair Art Museum. For more info call 201-746-2555.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27
NEWARK—NJIT will host a closing ceremony for Black History Month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hazelton Center Ballroom. For more info call 201-596-3434.

WEST LONGBRANCH—Rue of Black Observations: What Does It Mean For Our People? lecture at 7 p.m. in Monmouth College's College Center.

WAYNE—William Paterson College is hosting a Black Knowledge concert in the Student Center from 5 to 6 p.m. For more info call 201-595-2518.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
The Black West, narrated by Danny Glover,

er, reveals the history of black Americans during this country's western expansion will air on PBS at 8:05 p.m. Check your local listings for channel.

JERSEY CITY—Harambee! Celebration, an evening of jazz and poetry at JSC's Student Union Building at 8 p.m. For more info call 201-200-3428.

OCEAN COUNTY—African-American Inventors Exhibit will be on display at Ocean County College at 7 p.m. For more info call 908-255-0493.

FAMOUS BLACK BIRTHDAYS & FIRST EVENTS

FEBRUARY 6
Melvin B. Tolson, author and educator born in 1898.

FEBRUARY 7
The first Negro History Week originated by Carter G. Woodson in 1926.

FEBRUARY 8
Gary Coleman, actor born, 1968.

FEBRUARY 9
Alice Walker Pulitzer Prize winning author, born in 1944.

Gary Frank, first African-American Republican congressman since 1934, born 1953.

FEBRUARY 10
Leontyne Price Opera singer, born in 1927.

Roberta Flack, Grammy winning singer, born in 1939.

Mary Lovelace O'Neal, world famous painter, born in 1942.

FEBRUARY 11, 1890
The beginning of Nelson Mandela's life as a free man, after serving 27 years in prison.

FEBRUARY 13, 1957
Southern Christian Leadership Conference is founded. Name was later changed to Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

FEBRUARY 14
Frederick Douglass, publisher, states editor for Black History Month born in 1818 died in 1895.

Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was born in 1811.

Gregory Hines, actor/dancer born in 1946.

FEBRUARY 17
Jim Brown, football player/actor born in 1936.

Mary Frances Barry, first woman to serve as chancellor of a major university (University of Colorado in 1978), born in 1916.

Huey P. Newton, a co-founder and minister of defense of the Black Panther, was born, 1942.

Michael Jeffery Jordan, NBA All-Star, born in 1963.

FEBRUARY 18, 1867
Augusta Institute founded in Atlanta Ga. Later renamed Morehouse College.

Paul Revere Williams, famous architect, born 1894.

Tom Morrison, celebrated modern novelist, born 1931.

FEBRUARY 19, 1919
The first Pan African Congress, organized by W. E. B. Du Bois opens in Paris.

William "Smiley" Robinson, singer, born in 1940.

John Singleton is nominated for two Academy Awards for best director and best screenplay for his film, *Boyz n the Hood*. He is the first African-American director ever to be nominated for the Academy Award.

FEBRUARY 20
Sidney Poitier, international movie star, born 1927. He was the first African-American in a leading role in an Oscar.

Nancy Wilson, world-known jazz and pop singer, born in 1937.

FEBRUARY 21
Barbara Jordan, first African-American sits senator in Texas legislature since 1883, born 1936.

John Lewis, founder and chairman of Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and organizer in the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965, born 1940.

Malcolm X is assassinated at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem.

FEBRUARY 23
William E. B. DuBois founder of the NAACP and scholar was born in 1868, died in 1963.

Horse Pippin, WW I veteran and self-taught highly acclaimed artist, born 1888.

Julius "Dr. J." Erving, star basketball player, born in 1950.

Comer J. Cottrell, president of Pro-Line Corp. for Satchel Paige in a baseball auction, which results in the relocation of Paul Quinn College in Waco to the Bishop site in 1990.

FEBRUARY 24, 1922
Quincy Jones, wins five Grammys for The Dude, including producer of the year.

Muhammad Ali wins first heavyweight championship against Sonny Liston.

FEBRUARY 25
Fela Dantona, legendary R&B pianist, was born in 1923.

Andrew Brimmer becomes first African American governor of the Federal Reserve Board in 1965.

Debbi Thomas, first African American to bronze medal in Olympics' Winter Games, 1988.

Branches join forces to form Planned Parenthood Federation

The Planned Parenthood-Essex County (PPEC) and the Passaic County Committee for Planned Parenthood (PCPP) have joined forces to create a single affiliate of the Planned Parenthood Federation (PPF).

The new organization is named Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan New Jersey, Inc., and will serve Essex, Hudson and Passaic counties. It will be governed by a voluntary board of trustees created by a combination of the two previous boards.

"Healthy Women-Healthy Families" and "Every Child A Wanted Child." In the spirit of both of these, this new edition of the Planned Parenthood Family was both carefully planned and definitively wanted, and hopefully

will be healthy for its lifetime," stated Madis Powell, formerly PPEC's executive director and now president of the expanded organization.

"Combining our energies and resources enables us to provide better services and programs to the 10,000 individuals we serve each year," Powell added.

"This is good news for Passaic County clients and donors" said the Rev. Allen Finman (Pascap), former PCPP board president. "We will be able to offer additional medical services to our clients and we will be able to strengthen our Public Affairs efforts."

Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan New Jersey has six clinic sites: Newark (2), East Orange,

City supplies residents with recycling news

NEWARK—The City of Newark has begun a city-wide mailing campaign to residents which included recycling and sanitation collection brochures and new letters on the city's many environmental initiatives.

Newark Mayor Sharpe James said

that the brochures being mailed to each of the city's 80,000 households feature a 12-month calendar with easy to read color codes and icons indicating the collection days for recyclable paper, metal and glass, household trash and bulky refuse.

"The brochures also include detailed information on what to set out for collection and even a hotline number to call for residents who have questions," Mayor James said.

The mayor noted that two versions of the brochure have been created. "One brochure is being mailed to residents on the east side of the city who receive sanitation and recycling collection on Mondays and Thursdays, while another is specifically for residents who live on the west side of Newark and receive collection on Tuesdays and Fridays."

In addition to the recycling brochures, the city is also mailing more than 35,000 Newark Daily News which describe important environmental initiatives taken by local government, individuals and businesses, as well as things citizens can do to improve the environment where they live.

If you need not received a brochure or need it in the mail and would like to obtain one call the Newark Office of Recycling at 733-6683 or 733-6685.

If you know a child or teenager who has a mentally ill or seriously troubled parent, sibling, or close relative please call Kathy Mulrooney at Kids Cop, 201-677-1773 for assistance.

Kids learn to cope with loved ones' mental illness

EAST ORANGE—Kids Cop, the innovative and successful service of the Family Resource Center, which specializes in Mental Health Association's Main Street office in East Orange, began its fourth session on Monday, February 6 and will meet for eight consecutive weeks.

Through the program, children ages four through 12, and teenagers have the opportunity to meet weekly with other young people and share the problems encountered in having a mentally ill relative.

The youngsters find that they are not alone, they learn useful information,

while exchanging ideas on how to cope with their problems and having fun.

The program offers interaction of three age groups so children can feel comfortable with their peers. The groups are for children four through seven, eight through 12, and teens.

If you know a child or teenager who has a mentally ill or seriously troubled parent, sibling, or close relative please call Kathy Mulrooney at Kids Cop, 201-677-1773 for assistance.

Food contributions needed

NEWARK—Newark Emergency Services for Families, Inc., has experienced an increase in the number of people seeking food assistance.

As a result, the shelves of the agency's food pantry are becoming bare and donations are needed. Items such as canned milk, pastas and sauce, canned meat, cereal, cooking oil and other non-perishable items are most needed.

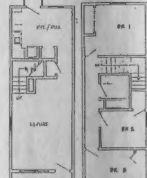
Contributions can be delivered to Newark Emergency Services for Families at 303 Washington St., 4th Fl. or call 201-643-5727.

Division of Sanitation to meet with public

NEWARK—The Department of Neighborhood Services' Director Marshall Cooper has announced that the city will sponsor a series of community meetings in all wards to respond to concerns over collection of refuse and to address collection problems. Residents can also register complaints or receive sanitation collection information by calling the Division of Sanitation at 733-3644, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

IF YOU DESERVE A BREAK JERSEY CITY'S GOT IT!

This Brand-New Two-Family Is Yours For Just \$78,900.00 (\$3990.00 Down, \$790.00/Mo. and You Get \$600.00/Mo. Rental Income)



- Frost-Free Refrigerator
- 30" Oven/Range
- Meets or Exceeds, N.J. Building Codes
- Wall To Wall Carpet
- Individual Lot With Backyard
- Off-Street Parking
- Thermopane Windows



MOVE IN BY JULY

- 3 Bedrooms
- Double Stainless Steel Kitchen Sinks
- Marble Bath Vanity
- Individual Room Thermostats

TO DESERVE A BREAK:

1. Your entire family must earn 80% or less of Hudson County average (Example: maximum income for family of four is approximately \$30,000.00)
2. You must have good credit that is not overused.
3. You must have a minimum of \$8,600.00 (\$3,995.00 of down payment, estimated closing cost of \$2,500.00)
4. You must take a seminar on rental property management.
5. You must rent to a certified low income household (50% or less of Hudson County Average).
6. You must be a resident or employed in Jersey City.
7. You must be a first time home buyer.
8. Preference must be given families of four or five in number.

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LAFAYETTE PARK REDEVELOPMENT AREA

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JP AFFORDABLE HOUSING

*Includes principal, interest, taxes, insurance

178 CENTRAL AVENUE, JERSEY CITY, NJ

SATURDAYS 10-3

WEEKDAYS 9-6 With the Active Cooperation of the City of Jersey City.

Billboard Calendar

ELIZABETH—The Elizabeth NAACP Youth Council is sponsoring a four-day Black College tour to Morgan, Howard, Hampton, Virginia State, Shaw, North Carolina-Central and North Carolina A&T. For questions and more info, call 908-353-2495 or 908-352-8860.

PLAINFIELD—Casting auditions will be held at the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield for beginners, males and females, ages 16 to 18, and two experienced actresses. For more info, call 908-474-4725 days or 908-757-7787 evenings.

WEDNESDAYS
NEW YORK—Amateur Night at the Apollo at 7:30 p.m. featuring "Step-Up To The Mic" audience participation, special guest hosts and ticket giveaways. For more info call 212-964-0372.

FEBRUARY 1 THRU APRIL 30
MORRISTOWN—Visit the Star Trek: Federation Science at the Morris Museum. For more info call 201-538-9454.
NEW YORK—"I Tell My Heart: The Art of Horacio Pippin" exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. For more info call 212-570-3756.

FEBRUARY 8 AND 9
NEW YORK—Yellowman, reggae artist, will appear at S.O.B.'s at midnight. For more info 212-243-4940.

NEW YORK—S.O.B.'s celebrate African History Month with Baba Olatunji and the drums of passion at 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. For more info call 212-243-4940.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12
NEWARK—NJ Symphony Orchestra sponsoring an AIDS Awareness Week event at Newark Symphony Hall at 3 p.m. For more info call 1-800-ALL-EGRO or 201-624-8203.

WAYNE—Winter 1995 Jazz Room Series, featuring Joe DeFrancesco, at 4 p.m. in the Shea Center at William Paterson College. For more info call 201-595-2371.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13-18
NEW YORK—Zinno Bar and Restaurant will feature Pat Malinverni, piano; Todd Coolman, bass; Ralph LaLama, sax. Call 212-924-5182 for February lineup.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13
NEW YORK—Lata Miranda, salsa artist, will perform at S.O.B.'s. For more info call 212-243-4940.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14
NEW YORK—Singer Mary Cleareman will perform at Knickerbocker Bar and Grill. For more info call 212-228-8490.

NEW YORK—Emmy Jackson's Soul Kitchen, a night of classical soul and rare, original. For more info call 212-243-4940.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18
SOUTH AMBOY—Saxophonist Eric Marienthal will be at Club Bene at 9 p.m. For more info call 908-727-3000.

NOW THRU FEBRUARY 18
JERSEY CITY—There will be an exhibition entitled "Shango/Chango: An Installation by Ben Jones" honoring the African Yoruba god, Shango and St. Barbara at the Jersey City Museum from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public. For more info, call 201-547-4379.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19
NEW YORK—"Hornet" presented by Voices of Griots 1985 Play Reading Series at 3 p.m. at the B. Smith's Bookstop Cafe. For more info call 212-426-0104.

NOW THRU FEBRUARY 19
NEW YORK—"Younger Man Older Woman" starring Willie Jackson will be at the Season Theatre. For more info call 212-496-7070.

FEBRUARY 13-18
NEW YORK—Pianist Pete Malinverni, bass player Todd Coolman and saxophonist Ralph LaLama will be at Zinno Bar and Restaurant. For more info call 212-924-5182.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21
NEWARK—"Dead Eyes," a theatrical examination of violence in America at 7 p.m. in the Mary Burch Theater at Essex County College.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
NEWARK—Evening Coffee House, featuring the vocals of Bradford Haynes from 5 to 7 p.m. on the Second Level Forum of Essex County College.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23
MONTCLAIR—10th Season of American Independent Film Festival Series with Clerks at the Clandestino Triple Cinema at 8 p.m. For more info call 201-746-5555.

NOW THRU FEBRUARY 26
SUMMIT—"A Heroes and Heroines: From Myth to Reality" exhibit opens in the Palmer Gallery. For more info call 908-273-9121.

NOW THRU FEBRUARY 26
ELIZABETH—"The Show-Off" a play by George Kelly opens at The Elizabeth Playhouse at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 908-355-0077.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1
WEST BURY—Pat LaBelle returns to Westbury Music Hall at 8 p.m. For tickets call 516-334-0800.

MARCH 1 THRU MAY 24
NEW YORK—"Performance 42nd" will appear again at the Whitney Museum of American Art at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 212-878-2435.

Send Billboard Calendar events to
P.O. Box 1774
Plainfield, NJ 07061

O.J. Simpson speaks out from jail

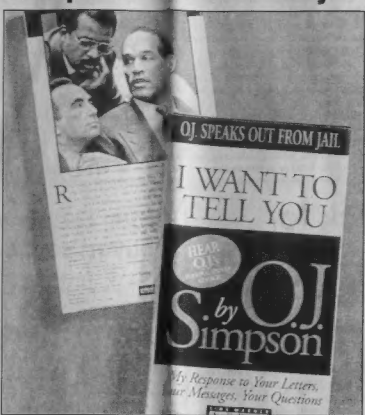
LOS ANGELES—O.J. Simpson speaks out from the Los Angeles County Jail in Time Warner AudioBooks' production of *I Want To Tell You* by O.J. Simpson from interviews by Lawrence Schiller. This audio contains Simpson's actual voice recording, made by Schiller at the jail during Simpson's incarceration. The audio, released simultaneously with the hardcover book from Little, Brown and Company, combines material from the book with original commentary by Simpson.

Quoted from the tape itself, Schiller commented, "Here for the first time O.J. speaks out from the L.A. County Jail where he sits waiting to be judged by a jury of his peers."

I Want To Tell You is Simpson's response to selected letters from the more than 300,000 pieces of correspondence he has received since his arrest in June 1994, for the deaths of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. As Simpson responds to some thirty letters in the audiobook, he expresses his reflections and his strong feelings about his innocence, his family, the media, justice and religion as well as his reaction to issues raised about spousal abuse and racism in America.

Simpson says, "I've asked myself why so many people wrote...it's amazing to me how many people felt my pain and my frustration. It had been for that Friday in June, that ride in my friend A.C.'s Bronco, I think many people would not have witnessed the desperate place I was in."

"I hope that everyone who wrote



to me will find, somewhere in this book, a response to the thoughts and feelings you've expressed to me in your letters."

Lois Weinraub, President of Time Warner AudioBooks, comments, "The coverage of O.J. Simpson's arrest and the hearings leading toward his trial has captured the attention of millions. Lawyers, family members and friends have spoken on O.J. Simpson's behalf, but he has not had the opportunity to speak for himself. In this dramatic audio message, people will hear at last O.J.'s personal thoughts and feelings, expressed in his own voice, in his own words."

I Want To Tell You will be distributed by Time Warner AudioBooks to clubs, music and video stores as well as to supermarkets and mass merchandising outlets nationwide.

African Heritage Network broadcasts Mississippi Masala

NEW YORK—The African Heritage Movie Network (AHN), hosted by famous entertainment couple, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, showcases Denzel Washington in the smash hit movie *Mississippi Masala*. Brought to you by AT&T, *Mississippi Masala* is AHN's February "Movie of the Month" Valentine's Day Tribute to love. The movie will air nationally on WABC, February 16 at 12:05 a.m.

"*Mississippi Masala* is a very unique film," explains Mr. Davis. "It explores the relationship between the Indian and African American communities in Mississippi."

The moviestars Academy award-winning Denzel Washington as Demetrius, owner of a carpet-cleaning company and Sarita Choudhury

as Mina, whose family fled Uganda under the rule of Idi Amin.

Demetrius is a proud African American man who has never lived in Africa. Mina is a spirited Indian woman who has never lived in India. They come from different races and cultures, but find mutual attraction when their cars collide in a minor traffic accident.

As *Mississippi Masala* unfolds, Demetrius and Mina begin their secret love affair which lands them in the center of controversy and scandal. Mina's parents are outraged by Mina's relationship because of the color difference and their memories of the Black Ugandans who exiled their family from Uganda.

"*Mississippi Masala* shares a lit-

tle taste of what life is like for some Indian immigrants in America," said Mr. Davis. This film encourages you to explore the potential bonds of compassion and understanding that can be created between very different groups of people," he concluded.



Sarita Choudhury and Denzel Washington star in the hit movie *Mississippi Masala* on the AHN Network

Entrepreneur launches designer line men's silk loungewear

LOS ANGELES—Entrepreneur Johnny "Ringo" Revels has announced the launch of the Johnny Ringo designer line of men's silk loungewear from his company, The Comfort Zone. The Johnny Ringo line boasts an exquisite collection of men's luxurious silk pajamas and robes, created by fashion designer Regi D'Lee. The fashions flaunt imported silk from the Orient in a wide variety of traditional and fashion forward designs.

Each item is made with Charmeuse silk, a 100% natural woven fiber. Famous for its satin finish with matte crepe reverse side, the cloth has been called the fabric of the '90's. All clothing is French seamed for a clean finish inside and out.

The Johnny Ringo line includes the "bold stripe" group of silks in black and white, pink and black, and purple and black patterns; the "silk organza" group, an eye appealing mix of sheer silk contrasted with Charmeuse; the "paisley group" of multi-prints; and the "cowboy mo-



Designer Johnny Revels

ti," a bold and colorful collection with a western slant. The new collection, scheduled to debut early '95, will show off a classic selection of embroidered organza's, printed silk charmeuse, and silk velvets.

For further information about the Johnny Ringo line contact, 1-800-38-RINGO.

George Duke and friends set to jazz it up at Club Bené

SAVERVILLE—George Duke and some very talented friends including saxman, George Howard, vocalists Dianne Reeves, Phil Perry and Howard Hewett, will all be performing in concert at the Club Bené Dinner Theatre, located on Rt. 47 in Sayreville, on Wednesday, March 8, for one night only. On this one evening the talented group will perform shows at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. with an optional dinner being served at 6:30 p.m.

All the featured artists have appeared at the Club Bené on prior occasions at least once, for George Duke this will mark his fourth return to the club.

Just a few of George's credits include his years with Stanley Clarke where George wrote and produced their "monster" hit recording of *Sweet*



George Duke

Baby, his time with Frank Zappa in *Mother's of Invention* and his association with Jean Luc Ponty.

For further information or for ticket reservations call 908-727-3000.

Club Bené		
Rt. 35, So. Amboy, N.J. 08879 Res. 908-727-3000		
February-11th CeCe Peniston	February-15th The Whispers	February-17th Fattburger
February-18th Eric Marienthal	February-26th El DeBarge	March-8th George Duke Dianne Reeves George Howard Howard Hewett Phil Perry
March-15 & 16 The O' Jays	March-24th The Rippingtons FEATURING Russ Freeman	March-26th Kirk Whalum

Live One Hundred Years.

Sit at the feet of the greatest teacher of all. Life. Spend an evening with Bessie and Sadie Delany, daughters of a former slave, and learn from their incredible century-long journey.

AT&T invites you to *Having Our Say - The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years*, a play based on the best-selling book, featuring award-winning actresses Mary Alice and Gloria Foster as Bessie and Sadie Delany, at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, New Jersey, February 7-26.

We're honored to help pay tribute to these African American women. Their triumph inspires us all in the face of challenging and changing times. Like them, AT&T is committed to quality and excellence for the next one hundred years.

McCarter Theatre presents
HAVING OUR SAY: THE DELANY SISTERS' FIRST 100 YEARS
 February 7 - February 26
 A play by Emily Mann
 adapted from the book
 by Sarah L. Delany and
 A. Elizabeth Delany with
 Amy Hill Hurst
 McCarter Theatre Center
 for the Performing Arts,
 91 University Place,
 Princeton, NJ
 For tickets and information
 call 609-683-8000.
 Made possible by AT&T



Business Calendar

BUSINESS EXCHANGE

Talkin' black and spending white

by William Reed

Have you ever wondered how many other people had similar doubts as you had about those people who were in leadership roles during the Civil Rights struggle but were known to be "sleeping white"?

Nowadays we have a new type of leader whose overall allegiance to the cause could also be called into question. In the 1960s, how often do we hear, or read about community leaders and heads of national organizations who are stressing the importance of African Americans supporting our own businesses and spending

dollars in our own communities?

It has become the fashionable thing to do and just as if they were all reading from the same sheet of paper, these "leaders" have appointed themselves as the voices to remind us of the billions of dollars that leave our communities each year.

We hear local and national leaders, and even some members of the cloth who preach from their pulpits, talk about the need for blacks to initiate economic development with our dollars. And surely, these concepts make sense. As members of the listening, and reading, audience we all nod our heads in agreement knowing that if we are to advance econom-

ically we need to stop spending our dollars with those "other folks."

But even as we pray together and collectively petition the government for an economic windfall, isn't it time to take a serious look at, first of all ourselves, and then these same leaders, to see where each of us are actually spending our dollars?

While we collectively condemn Clarence Thomas about his "sleeping white," think about how similar our actions are when it comes to what we do with our money. For all of us "black to the bone" activists, here are some relevant points to think on:

If you belong to a church, civic, social or community-based organi-

zation, when that organization needs goods or services, where do they spend their bucks? Does the organization or church recirculate dollars for needed goods and/or services among the members who own and operate businesses? When the organization or church has meetings, receptions or special events, where are these events held?

How many times have you attended an event sponsored by an African-American-oriented group or organization and the event was held at a white-owned establishment? Do you think to ask them if they had made any attempt to seek out a black-owned business, venue or caterer for

the event?

Have you checked out the numerous black-owned businesses who reaped financial benefits from set-aside contracts and whether they've fulfilled the capital chain's requirements to recirculate dollars they made back into the community? How many of these businesses have actually remained and hired people in the community?

After being black to get the set-aside contract, how many of these businesses purchase their materials from other black-owned businesses and utilize black consultants? After claiming to be "disadvantaged businesses" to get contracts for themselves how many of these firms have turned around and put money up to sponsor events, sports teams, uniforms and/or scholarships for young people from real disadvantaged communities?

And on a personal level, where do you bank and/or keep your own money? Where do you shop for your own shoes, cars, clothes or booze? Do you make it a point to buy some item and/or services from some black business on a regular basis?

Have you made it a regular process that you write a check each year to pay dues to groups such as the NAACP, Urban League, or do you, at

(Continued on page 10)

Pay back for businesses that keep consumers waiting

TRENTON—If you are one of those businesses whose delivery men take their own sweet time to deliver merchandise to consumers, watch out! Each late or last-minute cancellation can cost you up to \$500.

The New Jersey State Assembly recently approved what most residents may call a long over due legislation.

The newly-approved law would provide consumers with legal recourse against businesses that fail to deliver merchandise or services within a promised time frame.

The bill (A-1135), allow consumers to sue for compensation in the event that the service they paid for was not completed as promised or guaranteed.

"It's not uncommon that when an individual purchases a couch, television, refrigerator or stove, they are held hostage in their home all day while they wait for a delivery—only to have the appointment canceled at the last minute.

"The same applies to utility companies providing a service such as cable installation. It's unfair for consumers to lose a day's work in a no-show," said Assemblyman Jimmy Zagari (D-Essex), co-sponsor of

the bill.

Zagari explained that the measure would permit the purchaser to sue the retailer in small claims court for up to \$500 in lost wages or actual damages.

"The bill would require businesses to provide consumers with a four-hour time frame for delivery—not to be exceeded or canceled without adequate prior notice," said Anthony Improvudato (D-Hudson, Bergen) who co-sponsored the bill with Zagari.

"This bill isn't penalizing business or public utilities, we're simply establishing a standard of accountability in the service industry that remains inconsistent under current law."

Improvudato said that because of the unreliability of several service organizations, some New Jerseyans have become discouraged with local businesses.

"If this bill can restore confidence in the service industry and build trust—relationships between business and the public, the local economy will benefit," he concluded.

Urban League sponsors home buyers seminar and course

MONTCLAIR—The Urban League of Essex County will sponsor a free home buyers seminar on Wednesday, February 15, followed by a five-part Home buyers Education Course.

With a total of 217 people attending since June of 1994, the course and seminar have proven to be very successful. Five of the first eight graduates have successfully purchased homes in Montclair, Orange and East Orange within six months of graduation.

The free seminar will be held at the Montclair Public Library, 50 South Fullerton Ave., from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Home buyers Education Course is an in-depth five-part series

which covers what a person needs to know, not only to buy a house, but to get more house for the money.

The course covers types of mortgages, home shopping techniques, financial strategies, budgeting, where to buy a house, finding a good Realtor, and much more. Students will earn an Urban League Home buyers Course Certificate to help shop for a mortgage.

Classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays beginning February 22 through March 8, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the League's North Essex Office, located at 215 Glenridge Ave. in Montclair. The cost is \$35 per person. To register or for more information call 201-746-7725.

Investors to hold loan information open house

EAST ORANGE—As a public service to the community, Investors Savings Bank will hold an open house

offering information on borrowing at the bank's East Orange office on Saturday, February 11, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The information available will be of special interest to first-time home buyers seeking mortgages, as well as to those seeking refinancing, purchases, home improvements and

several loan options.

Home loan officers will be on hand to discuss visitors' specific needs and the options available in seeking the money to meet those needs. Answers to general questions on how best to borrow will also be provided by lending experts.

For more information, call Rose Sigler at 1-800-252-8119. The East Orange office is located at 27 Prospect Street.

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Volunteers needed for distance classic

NEWARK—In preparation for the 21st Annual, Newark Distance Classic (NDC), scheduled for Sunday, March 12, the Newark Division of Recreation and Cultural Affairs (DORCA) has announced that it is looking for volunteers.

A volunteers' meeting, will be held at 12 noon, February 9 in the DORCA office (Room B-23, Newark City Hall).

According to Roslyn Lightfoot, DORCA manager, "we need people to serve as hosts, hostesses and race marshals, as well as to work at the registration table, finish line, tee-

shirt table and water stops.

"Last year's race was outstanding, and we're looking for bigger and better things this year," Lightfoot continued. "One of the reasons this race has been such a gigantic success for over 20 years, is because of the tremendous support of volunteers from the Newark community."

Entry forms can be obtained through the Recreation/Cultural Affairs Division. To volunteer or register for the race, please contact Santiago or Wright in the DORCA office, Room B-23, Newark City Hall (201/733-6454 and 733-3749).

Black America's true voice

by William Reed

Louis Farrakhan is the person the majority of readers of black newspapers rate as the most effective African-American leader. A "Your True Voice" national poll among readers also reveals that "The most pressing problem where they live" is not racism but the lack of economic development. Over 70 percent of the respondents feel only "Somewhat" or "Not safe at all" in their neighborhoods, and drugs are rated as causing crime and forcing residents of inner-city areas to be afraid of being murdered or robbed.

Over 1300 readers of The Black Press returned filled-in copies of polls that were in their local publications to the National Newspaper Publishers Association to record their true voice to issues and people that affect their lives in America. The poll was undertaken because African American opinions, values, desires and problems are often misquoted in general market media, such as daily newspapers, national magazines and local and national broadcasts. Farrakhan, for instance, is often portrayed in a negative vein by general media, but tops the black readers' poll. The poll showed that 42 percent of black readers view general media newspapers as a "credible source of information" about them, with 32 percent and 31 percent of them citing black-oriented magazines and newspapers as most credible. The poll appeared in over 100 black-oriented newspapers across the country.

"The poll helps us to illustrate, accurately, the quality of life that our readers experience such as their neighborhoods and safety. And, change agents such as politics, leadership, organizations and institutions in our lives, communications and self-help," says Dr. Fred Black, of F.H. Black and Associates, who tabulated the poll data. The poll was designed by the National Newspaper Publishers Association and was recently presented at the organization's Mid-Winter Conference in Tampa. The poll contained 15 multiple choice questions.

Personal and community safety was mentioned in numerous ways in the poll. Numbers for random murders are up, primarily in inner-city areas. Police attribute the trend to trade in illegal drugs, growth of urban gangs and the younger ages of gang members; a general loosening of social strictures against aggressive behavior; the proliferation of weapons and the greater firepower of guns on the streets. More innocent bystanders are being killed, officials in

Talkin' black

(Continued from page 8)

business on a regular basis? Have you made it a regular process that you write a check each year to pay dues to groups such as the NAACP, Urban League, or do you, at least, volunteer four to eight hours a week to help such groups with their community-oriented programs? And what would you do if a black group came to you to assist in the funding of a business to serve inner city communities?

Until each of us takes a serious look at the types of dysfunctional behavior we individually, and collectively, exhibit in a capitalist society we will all continue to suffer from benign neglect from a general society that can't understand such self-defeating actions.

From the church's collection plate to the funds collected and spent by organizations, we all need to un-

derstand that the first law of survival is self-preservation, and to preserve requires self-help through the scratching your back, and you mine.

Blaming others for their racism, and for our race's dilemma, rings hollow when we continue to do things that are exactly opposite to the basics of a capitalist society. Other groups focus on supporting their own families and hiring and spending among their own.

Remember, at least O.J. never made any statements contrary to where he was coming from in his quest for companionship. We too should also be very clear in what we are doing. If you don't believe that blacks are capable of providing you goods and services then say it outright and stop acting like a thief in the night, talkin' black yet spending white.

A report on the "Your True Voice" Poll is available free to those who send a stamped self-addressed envelope to: NNPA Poll, 3200 13th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20010

Blacks mixed on remarks

(Continued from page 1)

larger context, they understood what he was trying to say," stated Price.

Also praising Lawrence's remark as president of the University was Said Samatar, a professor of African History. Samatar shared a similar sentiment, but also stated that Lawrence's words were powerful and hinted it was an indirect slap in the face to the African-American community.

"The statement on the face of it seems out of character with him. However, I find it troubling that low scores of black students can be explained by their 'genetic hereditary background.' Every one of those words is explosive—combined they make a dynamite."

He went on to continue, "From what I understand, President

Lawrence has been for the promotion of black and minority students enrollment and retention. I do not believe he wanted to slap the black community of New Jersey in the face. I can only explain it as a slip of the tongue, but boy was it a serious slip."

Although President Lawrence, before the week was out, issued an apologetic statement to the students, some African-American students questioned the validity of his apology when they discovered a separate letter, which indirectly implied that Lawrence regretted his statement and explained that his intentions were not race related, and in the best interest of all students.

However, in the letter to the students which was written after he dis-

smissed the faculty statement, Lawrence stated he could not explain such a remark.

Maryum Darby, a English major on the Newark campus, was one of those who questioned the distribution of two statements. Darby says students deserve an explanation not an apology.

"I don't understand why there were separate memos issued. The faculty memos seemed more personal, where as ours (the students) were more apologetic. An apology means forgiveness. It's not enough to apologize. The damage is done. I don't need an apology, I need an explanation in order to have a better understanding (of what he meant to say)," Darby said.

The resignation of the president has been a major issue since his remarks. Faculty members, such as Samatar who are more familiar with Lawrence, who has publicly stated he will not resign, feel a resignation

is too severe. However, students and others, in an uproar over the remarks, are calling for more than a letter of apology and believe his statement will affect minority enrollment.

"There may be a bright side to this in the sense that given the bad feeling generated by this perhaps the university's administration will be more sensitive to the promotion of black student enrollment and retention at this university. I would not go so far as penalties. I think when the president made his remark he was less than perfect, but asking him to step down would be too vindictive," said professor Samatar.

Tomarr West, junior, disagrees and says, "The fact that two letters were issued takes away any possibility that his statement was taken out of context. Such statements can discourage African-American enrollment to Rutgers. No penalty would be hard enough," West explained.

Students protest

(Continued from page 1)

who supported President Lawrence. Eulazia Jorge, a Douglas College junior and Carr scholar, cautioned students about the importance of thoroughness in pursuing student demands. "We have to make people accountable, because after Fran leaves they'll put another body in there and then what are we going to do... We have to demand strengthening of our departments and recruitment."

Isabel Nazario, director of the Center for Latino Arts and Culture commented to students that she and other faculty wanted to make sure that students are not used. "You (the students) had better do your homework on this one," she warned students. Students called for the democratic election of the next Rutgers University president and for continuing student action and participation.

On Thursday, February 2 Lawrence met with over 300 students and faculty at Neilson Dining Hall on the Douglass campus. "It's something I'm going to have to live with. The most positive way to respond is to redouble my efforts and address issues of more minority administrators, faculty and students," said Lawrence.

During the discussion with Lawrence, Otis Rolley, a Rutgers Jun-

ior said "You've apologized and I forgive you. Now you also have to answer to what the student body wants... This is propaganda... You got busted; you must leave."

John McCutchen, a maintenance worker at Douglass said, "If you people don't forgive him, you're no better than he is... Search you heart and try to find a way to forgive him. What else can he give?"

Halfway into the discussion about a quarter of the students walked-out of the meeting as a form of protest.

Students have formed an ad hoc coalition—the "United Student Coalition," comprised of University-wide organizations including: the African Student Congress, President's Council, Latino Student Congress, Rutgers, Douglass, Cook, and Livingston's College Governing Associations, C.A.R.E., Committee to Save the Women's Center, and the Committee to Save Livingston College.

At deadline, the United Student Coalition had called a meeting on Monday evening at 8:00 at the Livingston College Student Center to set before the University, student body and the press a list of eight demands, that include that immediate resignation of Fran Lawrence.

Letter to the editor

(Continued from page 4)

NJ Transit needs to clean house

already told them that if they want to get to Trenton they have to pay me \$6.95 each unless they have a handicap pass."

I wrote back to the young lady the terms of purchasing their tickets and asked if they needed one-way or round trip tickets, she said one way. I then assisted them in getting back into the line to purchase their tickets. While in the process of doing so the agent really showed her annoyance by stating to a young man in the group, "because of you I can't go to lunch."

These kids were so confused yet very grateful to me for taking the time to communicate with them even though I did not know sign language that they all kept thanking me over and over.

I wonder, what would it have taken for this NJ Transit employee to patiently write this information down and communicate with these kids? Or if she couldn't do so, get someone to help them, as opposed to yelling at these deaf youth. Just witnessing this incident caused my blood pressure to rise considerably because I was extremely upset with this woman, who was old enough to be these kids' grandmother.

I don't know about you, but these are not the kind of people I want to spend my money with. I think NJ Transit officials should seriously consider cleaning house and hire some people who know the meaning of common courtesy, kindness, and customer appreciation.

Because of their disability, these kids were treated in 1995 by a black woman, the same way one would have expected a white person to treat her in 1955 because of the color of her skin. How far have we come?

Sandra Wright
Assistant Editor, City News



SOONER OR LATER, ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WILL HAVE TO DISCOVER A WAY TO LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

KRAFT FOODS